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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

OAKLAND DIVISION

Plaintiff United States of America (the “United States”) respectfully submits this status report and proposed order pursuant to the Court’s Order dated October 21, 2021. ECF No. 26. The United States continues to work diligently to serve defendants BTC-e, a/k/a Canton Business Corp., and Alexander Vinnik (collectively, “Defendants”) abroad under the Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters (“Hague Service Convention”), and respectfully requests that the Court allow the United States to file another status report in ninety (90) days regarding its efforts to complete service on Defendants.

As the United States has previously conveyed to the Court, Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(m) exempts “service in a foreign country” from its time limits. *See* ECF No. 25. Nevertheless, the United States has been attempting to promptly serve Defendants abroad. *Id.* After the United States filed its

1 complaint on July 25, 2019, and because Defendant Vinnik was located in Greece at that time, the
 2 United States began the process of translating the complaint and summons into Greek under the Hague
 3 Service Convention. *Id.* In January 2020, after the United States submitted a Request for Service
 4 Abroad of Judicial or Extrajudicial Documents required by the Hague Service Convention, but before
 5 the Greek Central Authority completed service, Defendant Vinnik was extradited to France. *Id.* The
 6 United States began the process of re-translating the appropriate documents into French and effectuating
 7 service on Defendants in France. *Id.* The United States expects to complete service on Defendant
 8 Vinnik in France through appropriate authorities, including by following the process set forth by the
 9 Hague Service Convention. *Id.*

10 On August 5, 2021, the United States certified to this Court that the United States had
 11 transmitted its request for service abroad and all required documents to the French Central Authority
 12 pursuant to the Hague Service Convention. *See* ECF No. 24. The United States thereafter inquired with
 13 the French Central Authority regarding the status of the request, and was notified on October 14, 2021
 14 that the request “was sent to the relevant French jurisdiction last week (on 10-06-2021),” and that the
 15 United States could expect to receive more information regarding service before the end of the year.
 16 Since the date of the United States’ prior status report, the United States again inquired with the French
 17 Central Authority regarding the status of the request, and was notified on January 12, 2022 that the
 18 French Central Authority had not yet received an update regarding service from the relevant French
 19 jurisdiction. Accordingly, the United States respectfully requests that the Court allow it to file another
 20 status report in ninety (90) days, or by April 18, 2022, regarding its efforts to serve Defendants.

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 22 Respectfully submitted,

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 24 STEPHANIE M. HINDS
 Acting United States Attorney

25 Dated: January 14, 2022

26 By: /s/ Savith Iyengar
 27 SAVITH IYENGAR
 28 Assistant United States Attorney

[PROPOSED] ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that plaintiff United States of America shall file a Status Report by April 18, 2022.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: _____, 2022

HON. KANDIS A. WESTMORE
United States Magistrate Judge